

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on February 12, 2008. Claims 1, 11, 16, 22, and 41 are amended, claims 8, 21, 26, and 27 are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-11, 14-17, 20, 22-25, 41-42, and 44-46 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 7, 9-11, 14, 16-17, 20, 22-25, 41, 42, 44 and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jackson et al (U.S.S.013,366) in view of Tipton et al (U.S. 6,800,142). Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are distinguishable over the cited references for at least the following reasons.

The rejection states that Jackson teaches a method of cleaning a contaminated substrate. The rejection further states that Jackson does not specifically indicate the use of megasonic wave energy. The Tipton reference is cited to cure the deficiencies of Jackson. Jackson appears to show use of dense phase gases for cleaning substrates. Tipton appears to show cleaning post etch residue from semiconductor wafers. However Applicant is unable to find in Jackson or Tipton changing a thermodynamic condition of the supercritical fluid to cause gas bubbles in the carrier fluid and concurrently brushing the semiconductor surface.

In contrast, claim 1 as amended recites changing a thermodynamic condition of the supercritical fluid to cause gas bubbles in the carrier fluid and concurrently brushing the semiconductor surface. Independent claims 11, 16, 22, and 41 recited similar language to amended claim 1.

Because the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not show every element of Applicant's independent claims, a 35 USC §103(a) rejection is not supported by the references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested with respect to Applicant's independent claims 1, 11, 16, 22, and 41. Additionally, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested with respect to the remaining claims that depend therefrom at least as depending on allowable base claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6944 to facilitate prosecution of this application.


If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date 6-12-2008

By


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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 18 day of June 2008.


Name


Signature